



## ALABAMA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

**NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2004**

**Col John Tilton  
Commander**

**Lt Col Mike Oakman  
Vice-Commander**

---

### Inside this edition

Commander's notes_____	1
Hero in AL 118_____	2
Pell City Pride	
New Commander AL 118	
Attending the Conference	
Regional Safety Award_____	3
AL 055 Aerospace Awards_____	4
Tuskegee SAREX	
Cadet Letter_____	5
Redstone Cadets	
Tuscaloosa Training_____	6
Glider Flights	
Wings of Victory Air Show_____	7
Lt Shane Klase_____	8
Communication	
Recruiting and Retention	
Public Affairs_____	9

### Commander's Notes

October started a new fiscal year. We have some training money for the first quarter and we are scheduling events. I

have asked Capt. John Davis to post the Wing calendar and to keep it current. If you have events to post, please send them to John.

We are a little slow in getting started in Cadet Orientation and ROTC Rides. Col. Bob Dorning is going to try to get them on track. Col. Dorning has brought us a new staff member for the Aerospace Education Officer slot, his daughter Deborah Dorning. You can look forward to hearing from her.

I appreciate all the efforts put forward for the IVAN emergency. We had a meeting in November to try to set a procedure that will eliminate some of the confusion. We were not given very many missions, and the coordination between the EMA and the NOC could use some fine-tuning. We completed all assigned missions without any problems. Great work from all of you. I

know “standing by” is harder than working. To those who went to the aid of Florida, Col. Matt Sharkey sends his thank you for the people of that great state.

On a sad note, we lost a great member. Maj. Perry James, the Birmingham Squadron 34 commander, passed away. Perry was a dedicated member and a good person. He dedicated much of his time to the squadron and he will be missed by all.

Keep up the good work and I'll be around to see you soon.

**Call him a hero and he would deny it.** Yet that is exactly what Capt. William Glenn is. On 12 August 2004, in an apparent suicide attempt, a woman leaped from a bridge into the Coosa River near Pell City, AL. Arriving on the scene minutes later Capt. Glenn, with complete disregard of his personal safety, dived into the muddy and rain-swollen river and rescued the dazed and barely conscious woman. Capt. Glenn's life saving actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Civil Air Patrol. Capt. Glenn is a member of Composite Squadron 118 (Pell City), and is employed as a B-767 captain with United Airlines.

*-Capt Noel Harvey, PAO Pell City*

### **Triple Events—Unlimited Pride**

For C S/SGT Sarah Todd, 11 August 2004 will always be a memorable date: it was her sixteenth birthday, she made her first solo flight in an airplane, and she received her driver license. Cadet Todd is a member of Composite

Squadron 118 at Pell City, AL. She is the daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Donnie Todd.

*-Capt Noel Harvey, PAO Pell City*

### **New Commander for AL118**

A change of command ceremony was held on 26 August 2004 at the Pell City, AL airport. Lt. Col. John Lawrence relinquished command of Composite Squadron 118 (Pell City) to Capt. Donnie Todd. Lt. Col. Lawrence was presented the Meritorious Service Award for meritorious service during his four year tenure as squadron commander. Colonel John Tilton, Alabama Wing Commander, presided over the ceremony.

*-Capt Noel Harvey, PAO Pell City*



### **WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE ATTENDED THE CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE/CONVENTION**

Before I begin let me congratulate and thank the other three members of the Redstone Composite Squadron who attended the conference with me. They were: Audrey McGriff, Charlie Burgess, and Blake Mathis. If you decided not to attend because you had not attended before - all four of us had never attended a National Conference

either. If you decided to not attend because you are new to CAP, then you missed the best chance this year to get up to speed quickly in the functional area you are working or plan to work.

In a nut shell here are three things I can think of that you missed:

1. **TRAINING.** This unique conference offers the tremendous opportunity to learn a lot of cutting edge material in lots of areas of CAP business. During this conference, there were seminars running in three (one in the morning and two in the afternoon) times session each day for three days. Within each time session, there were 10 to 12 training seminars to choose from. All of these were being presented by CAP leadership who are developing and updating the policy in their area. Those of us who attended had the opportunity to dialog directly with the experts and get the straight poop. In addition, it was neat attending the Board of Directors meetings and see how CAP operates. It was an honor to attend the Awards Ceremony and see CAP members from all the Regions be recognized for truly great contributions.

2. **EXPOSURE/FRIENDSHIPS.** It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other CAP members from around the world and discover that they are sharing the same interests and excitement, frustrations and concerns that you are. What is neater is to discover ways others are improving on some of the more difficult speed bumps that we find in CAP.

3. **FREEBEES.** At least a hundred of so attendees won door prizes during multiple raffles that were held in the

exhibit areas between seminars. As proof of this, I was lucky to win probably the best prize offered. I won a portable oxygen bottle system for pilots who flight above 8,000'. This prize alone costs over \$500. At least two other members of the AI wing also were winners. .

So if you did not attend, you missed out. I recommend you talk with those who did attend and commit to attend next year's conference which will be held in St Louis. You will not regret it.

*-Lt. Col. Larry Becker  
Squadron Commander  
Redstone Composite Sqdn.*



## **BESSEMER SAFETY OFFICER GETS REGIONAL RECOGNITION**

For the Bessemer Composite Squadron in Bessemer, AL, safety has always been a top priority. However, Lt. Darryl Barry knew that the unit could raise its standards. Thorough safety briefings on all topics related to the unit's routine activities have kept both Cadet and Senior members constantly aware of all of the potential dangers they may face. Lt. Barry has taken this commitment to safety to a personal level. He has met

with members both in the monthly safety meetings and in one-on-one counseling sessions.

It is this outstanding effort with safety and other aspects of his CAP duties that has warranted his receiving of the Region's Safety Officer of the Year award. His achievement was recognized in a recent awards ceremony. Alabama Wing Commander, Col. John Tilton presented him with the award.

Unit Vice-Commander, Capt. Jim Smiley, acknowledged the significance of Lt. Barry's achievement. "We, at Bessemer Squadron, couldn't be more excited and pleased about Lt. Barry's recognition as Region Safety Officer of the Year. We have been the recipients of his leadership, excellence and dedication from the first day he became a member of our Squadron. Having him recognized in this manner at the Region level only reinforces our belief that we have the best there is in Lt. Barry."

*-Capt Glenn Wilson, PAO Bessemer Squadron*



Maj W Gardner, 2Lt Bonnie Gardner, 1Lt Ian Johnston, 2Lt Lisa Johnston, Capt Barry Roberts

## Huntsville Seniors earn Aerospace Awards

Huntsville Composite Squadron Senior members decided that their goal for the spring quarter of 2004 was to earn Yeager awards. 1 Lt Ian Johnston, 2 Lt Lisa Johnston, Maj Wayne Gardner, 2Lt Bonnie Gardner, 1 Lt Rumaasha Maasha, Capt Jerry Tignor, and Capt Barry Roberts were able to complete the course and receive their certificates. In April 2004, Capt Carl Foster Squadron Commander presented the certificates at a squadron meeting.

## Tuskegee, AL SAREX 18 August 2004



The aircraft arrived. The volunteers signed in. The target had been set out and everyone was ready to work by 0900 hours. Lt. Col. Rush served as Incident Commander for the exercise. The ground teams were dispatched and air sorties were briefed and released. Alabama Wing CAP used the historic

field at Tuskegee, Alabama for a SAREX on 18 July 2004.



Tuskegee, Alabama

### **Cadet Letter**

The following letter was sent to Lt Col Al Jackson. Sometimes we wonder if we have made a difference in our cadets' lives. We do. This is certainly evidence. Congratulations to Lt Col Jackson and to the Maxwell Composite Squadron.

September 6, 2004

Hey, it's Chelsea Holder hopefully you remember me. We met at the Thunderbirds' Show in Montgomery and you told me I could either serve my country in SMK (some man's kitchen) or in the CAP and I chose the CAP. I've been in Maxwell's Composite Squadron for about a month now and I'm enjoying every minute of it next Monday is my first P.T. and I'm looking forward to it. I also wanted to let you know that since I've been in CAP it has shown a tremendous improvement in my grades I've come from making C's and B's to

now all I make is high A's. My parents are really proud and I do believe that CAP is right for me. Well, that's all I wanted to say, and I hope to hear from you soon. Thanks for encouraging me to join the CAP otherwise my parents wouldn't be driving me 1 hr to Montgomery on Monday nights and 1 hr back!

-Cadet Basic Holder

### **CADETS AND SENIORS HAVE LUNCH WITH PILOTS FROM COLUMBUS AFB, MS.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> of September will be a day that many of the Redstone Composite Squadron Cadets won't soon forget. Six cadets and six seniors were at Signature Aviation for the arrival of LTC Gary Lorimore and Capt Andy Landwer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, MS. As they landed in their T-5 Texan Trainer, Col Lorimore and Capt Landwer came to Huntsville for the first and hopefully many to come "Lunch with the Pilots" program initiated by 1LT Dani Richard, Acting Commander. LTC Lorimore and Capt. Landwer each took a group of cadets and explained the aircraft to them. Some sat in the aircraft and some tried on the parachutes. During our lunch at Subzone LTC Lorimore and Capt Lundwer talked to the cadets about scholarships and about requirements for the Air Force Academy. The cadets had many



questions about academic requirements and what it took to be an Air Force Pilot. After lunch we returned to Signature Aviation for a photo session and more discussion about the aircraft. We said our good byes and we departed. What a great experience for our cadets and seniors alike.



Redstone Cadets present for Lunch with the Pilots are l-r, C/ AMN Basic Valeria Van Winkle, C/AMN Joseph McClanahan, C/AMN Ariel Childress, C/ AMN Justin Green, C/COL Andrew J Johnson, LTC Gary Lorimor and CPT Andy Landwer (Photo by Capt. Les Barnard)

## Tuscaloosa conducts training exercises

15 flights  
16.9 hours (all funded by our members)  
33 trainee missions

During this period we qualified nine additional Mission Scanners, four additional Mission Observers, and two new Mission Pilots (two more pilots only require a Form 91 check ride to be fully qualified). Several members are only a sortie away from additional ratings.

It would be a mistake if I didn't thank each of you for donating your time (and money!) for making this local training the huge success it was. I especially want to thank Jean Spruill, Benton Gup, Mark Gurganus, and Dennis South for sharing their time and skills in performing most of this training. I think you will agree that having local training given by qualified instructors at convenient times along with Wing sponsored training is a great benefit to our squadron.

Again, congratulations on a very successful undertaking.

- Ed Barnes  
Commander CAP  
Tuscaloosa Composite Squadron

## Glider Flights at Shelby County

On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, SM Michael Capone and three cadets drove up from Mobile for some flying. All three cadets got their first Glider Orientation flight. SM Capone was able to fly as well.



(Left to right) Cadet Chima, Lt. Col. Ward, Cadets Gilmore and Capone, SM Capone

## Shelby County, AL—Are We Having Fun Yet?

You don't have to ask Col. Harry E. Ford, USAF RET, but just look at his expression. Col Ford, a member of the Shelby County Flight, Alabama Wing Civil Air Patrol, got his first glider flight recently. He has more than 5,000 hours flying time, having flown everything from T-6's, P-51's, B-25's, to B-47's and KC-97's. Col. Ford is one of the "Tuskegee Airmen" who still has that love of flying. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol for less than a year, Col Ford has already qualified as a mission scanner and is working on his Mission Observer rating.

*Lt. Col. Johnny Ward*



Col. Ford in the front seat; Lt. Col. Ward, commander, Shelby County flight in the back seat.

## Col. Tilton Solos

Col. John Tilton, Alabama Wing Commander, soloed in a Blanik glider on July 3, 2004, at Flying X Field in Shelby County, Alabama. Col. Tilton visited the Glider Flight to observe the operations when the opportunity to solo happened. "Glider flight brings back all the basic VFR skill and excitement that sometimes gets lost in the high-tech cockpits of today's aircraft," he said when asked about flying gliders as he is a certified instrument and flight instructor.

In addition to being a corporate pilot, Col Tilton holds airline transport pilot and commercial seaplane pilot ratings. He is a certified flight and instrument instructor in both airplanes and helicopters and is an airframe and power plant mechanic. In Civil Air Patrol he is a standardization pilot. He received the Gill Rob Wilson award, a Technical track rating in Communication, and Master rating in Standardization/Evaluation.

Col Tilton is from Sterrett, Alabama, in Shelby County and has been commander of the Alabama Wing for two years. He retired as a Lt. Col. in the United States Army Reserve and served in Vietnam.

*Maj. Pat Mitcham*

## Wings of Victory Air Show

The Alabama Wing provided outstanding support for the Wings of Victory Air Show at Maxwell Air Force Base, a truly patriotic event. Safety was stressed at every opportunity throughout

this two day event. Our primary support role was to assist the 42d Air Base Wing Security Forces and CAP NHQ. Security Forces requested our assistance for the Entry Control Point.

Eight to ten cadets and one senior member manned the ECP for half of Saturday, June 5th and all day Sunday, June 6th. Estimated attendance exceeded 65,000 on Saturday and over 45,000 on Sunday. Alabama Civil Air Patrol volunteers did all of the bag searches and manned the metal detectors at the three gates for which they were responsible.

Alabama CAP manned the aircraft display which consisted of Alabama Wing's Maule, a Glider, a new C182, and a restored Stinson. Also, volunteers also supported Aerospace Education in Cadet Programs, Cadet Ken and Kyle displays; Operations, demonstration of ELT Searches; and Recruiting.

The support the wing provided was outstanding. For the ones who were unable to attend, they missed a great show in particular TORA, TORA, WWII aerial reenactment with B-17s, B-25s, P51s, and others.

Alabama Wing Squadrons that supported the air show were the following: Autauga-Elmore Cadet Squadron; Baldwin County Composite Sq; Bessemer Composite; Chilton County Composite; Clay County Flight; Lee County Composite Squadron; Maxwell Composite Sq; Mobile Composite Squadron; Redstone Composite Squadron; Shelby County; and the Springville Flight.



Lt Shane Klase, Dothan Squadron

## **Lt. Shane Klase to Test Pilot School**

Lt. Shane Klase of the Dothan Composite Squadron has been selected to attend the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School as a Systems Engineer starting in February 2005. The 10 month school trains pilots and engineers on flight test techniques in aircraft performance, stability and control. Only 32 students are selected worldwide per class as the school hosts all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as foreign military services. Upon completion of the course, graduates will have flown in over 15 different types of aircraft ranging from jet airplanes, helicopters, transport airliners to gliders.

Lt. Shane Klase joined the Dothan Squadron in August of 2004 and is currently serving as a CAP Pilot; he is also working on the Aerospace Education specialty track. Shane is a Department of the Army Civilian (DAC)



for the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center (ATTC) at Fort Rucker, Alabama where he serves as a project engineering responsible for the design, development, test and certification of U.S. Army aircraft and their systems.

Upon completion of the course Shane will return to ATTC for continued service as a project engineer.

*Lt. Col Tom Holer*

## **Communications announcement**

Alabama Wing Communications would like to welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jim Smiley to the Communications' staff. Lt. Smiley will be taking on the task of Licensing Officer. Jim will remain as a Bessemer Squadron member and has agreed to help the Communications staff as well. An email will be sent to all once Jim takes on the duties, and all Radio Station Authorization requests will be sent to him at that time. Until then, continue to send Radio Station Authorization requests to Lt. Col Rick Hasha. Jim Smiley is an experienced Amateur Radio operator and CAP Communicator and a computer IT person as well. We are excited to have Jim's help. Please assist him in any way as he "settles in" on Wing Staff.

*Lt. Col Rick Hasha*

## **Recruiting and Retention**

The new rating of Recruiting and Retention has been approved, it should be on the National web site next Monday, Nov. 22, 2004, for all to see and understand. I am hopeful that by the middle or end of January, we will have our first training class for new CAP Recruiters. I would encourage all Squadron Commanders to start screening your members now to see who would like to train to be trainers, and become recruiters.

A recruiting video begun by Alabama Recruiting and Retention is being edited and revised by National CAP. It will be used for senior member and cadet member recruiting.

*Lt. Col. Al Jackson*

## **Public Affairs**

A newsletter is only as interesting and informative as the articles in it. Remember that each squadron is doing something and that everything can be publicized. The newsletter is going to be quarterly for a while. The next one will be a spring newsletter.

If your squadron doesn't have a PAO, please designate one. A quick email is all I need to have your squadron mentioned in the newsletter.

Until next time, I leave you with the following thoughts on Thanksgiving, not original – adapted from an email I received from a friend.



**I am thankful for. . .**

The teen who is not doing dishes but is watching TV because that means he/she is at home and not on the streets.

The taxes I pay because it means that I am employed.

The mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

The clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

A lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

All the complaints I have and hear about the government because it means that I have freedom of speech.

The parking spot I find at the far end of the lot because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.

My huge heating bill because it means I am warm.

For the pile of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear.

For barking dogs, children's laughter, and car horns because it means that I can hear.

For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I am capable of working hard.

For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means I'm alive.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



*Maj. Pat Mitcham, Public Affairs*